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ISRAELI VIEWS OF TRADE WITH EGYPT

ANNCR:

THE PROSPECTS OF AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE HAS OPENED UP WIDE VISTAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TRADE, TOURISM AND JUST FRIENDLY VISITING BACK AND FORTH. CHARLES WEISS REPORTS ON SOME OF THE IDEAS BEING BANDIED ABOUT.

VOICE:

IN THE SHORT TERM THE ISRAELIS ARE THINKING ABOUT TOURISM AND TRADE. SOME OF THE BASICS WILL HAVE TO BE SET OUT EXPLICITLY IN WHATEVER PEACE TREATY IS SIGNED, AND ISRAEL HAS A TEAM OF CABINET MINISTERS WORKING ON THAT ASPECT. THINGS LIKE RECIPROCAL AIRCRAFT LANDING RIGHTS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF LIFTING THE BAN ON ANY ISRAELI GOODS AT ALL IN EGYPT MUST BE SPELLED OUT IN THE TREATY.

ON ANOTHER LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE NOW LOOKING INTO WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE. SHIMON BEN-TUVIM OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM IS ONE OF THEM. ON THE BASIS OF CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHES ABROAD, HE THINKS THAT FOR THE FIRST YEAR TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS WITH ISRAEL SELLING EGYPT SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF METAL PRODUCTS AND MACHINERY, CHEMICALS, CANNED GOODS AND ELECTRONICS, AND BUYING OIL, TOBACCO, RICE, COTTON AND CLOTH FOR THE SAME AMOUNT. SINCE NEITHER COUNTRY WANTS TO LAY OUT HARD CURRENCY, HE ASSUMES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS WILL BALANCE EACH OTHER OUT.

ACCORDING TO MISTER BEN-TUVIM, ISRAEL BELIEVES A JOINT COMMITTEE OF CABINET MINISTERS SHOULD BE SET UP TO WORK OUT THE VOLUME OF TRADE, SET STANDARDS AND LAY DOWN GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OF GOODS -- SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN A

TREATY. EVERYTHING IS NOW IN THE EMBRYO STAGE, HE STRESSES, NOTHING HAS CRYSTALIZED. NEVERTHELESS, HE SEES THE DAY WHEN THE ECONOMIES OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER, WITH EACH CONCENTRATING ON PRODUCTS IN WHICH IT HAS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND NEGLECTING THOSE IN WHICH IT DOESN'T.

IN THE LONGER TERM, HE SAYS, ISRAEL IS STUDYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING THE SINAI PENINSULA, CHIEFLY IN AGRICULTURE. HERE HE THINKS THE EGYPTIANS WILL WANT TO MOVE VERY SLOWLY. JOINT PROJECTS ARE MORE CONSPICUOUS EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION THAN TRADE. ONCE THEY DO GET UNDERWAY, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE KIND OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY THE COMMON MARKET AND THE UNITED NATIONS. TILL NOW ISRAEL HAS BEEN SHUNNED BY ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES NOT CONSIDERED PART OF THE REGION.

WHEN MISTER BEN-TUVIM SPEAKS OF TOURISM, HE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES THE RUSH OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS WHO ARE DYING OF CURIOSITY TO SEE THE OTHER'S COUNTRY. WHAT HE'S LOOKING INTO IS HOW TOURISTS FROM HARD CURRENCY COUNTRIES WOULD BE ATTRACTED BY A PACKAGE THAT INCLUDED THE HOLY SITES AND THE PYRAMIDS. THIS IS WHERE RECIPROCAL LANDING RIGHTS COME IN. IN THIS AREA, AS WELL HE NOTES, THE EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO WANT TO MOVE AHEAD CAUTIOUSLY, AND HE BELIEVES THIS IS DUE CHIEFLY TO THE SEVERE LIMITATIONS THEY HAVE ON AVAILABLE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

ONE ENTERPRISING TOUR OPERATOR WHO WANTS TO GET IN ON THE ANTICIPATED FLOOD OF ISRAELIS TO EGYPT IS COLMAN GOLDSTEIN OF TEL AVIV. A DIRECTOR OF THE GALILEE TOURIST BUS COMPANY, HE HAS JUST COME BACK FROM CAIRO. INSIDE OF A WEEK, HE SAID, HE

COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS WITH EGYPTIAN TOUR OPERATORS TO BRING IN TWO BUSLOADS OF TOURISTS A WEEK GOING BY ROAD ACROSS SINAI. THE TEL AVIV-TO-CAIRO TRIP WOULD TAKE SEVEN HOURS. THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE PICKED UP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CAIRO, BE GIVEN A SEVEN-DAY ALL INCLUSIVE STAY IN THE CAPITAL WITH OPTIONAL TOURS OF LUXOR AND ALEXANDRIA ALL FOR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. MISTER GOLDSTEIN HOPES TO START OPERATING BY MARCH. WHILE HE WAS PROMISED HOTEL SPACE IN EGYPT, HE FOUND NO ONE IN CAIRO PREPARED TO GUARANTEE HIM EGYPTIAN TOURISTS FOR A RETURN PACKAGE.

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